

**ABSTRACT**

A method for simultaneous release and detection of nucleic acids from complex biological samples is described. The invention relates to the combined use of lysis buffers containing strong chaotropic agents such as guanidine thiocyanate to facilitate cell lysis and release of cellular nucleic acids and to the use of a novel type of bicyclic nucleotide analogues, locked nucleic acid (LNA) to detect specific nucleic acids released during lysis by nucleic acid hybridisation. In particular methods are described for the covalent attachment of the catching LNA-oligo. Novel methods for sample preparation of e.g. polyadenylated mRNA species are also presented. The invention further addresses reagents for performing the methods as well as reagents and applications of the method.

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